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Company Press Release

**Chicago School Enters New Era in Energy and Education**  
**Frank W. Reilly Elementary School Receives Solar Electric System**

CHICAGO, Ill.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--March 3, 2000--The City of Chicago, Commonwealth Edison, the Chicago Public Schools, the United States Department of Energy, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Local #134), and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs announced today that they have collaborated in providing Chicago's Reilly Elementary School with a 10 kilowatt solar (photovoltaic or PV) electric rooftop system. The system was provided by Spire Solar Chicago, a PV module manufacturing and systems business that recently located in Chicago as a result of collaboration between Spire Corporation (NASDAQ:SPIR - news) of Bedford, Massachusetts, the City of Chicago, and ComEd.

The system, of 120 PV panels capable of providing 85 watts of peak power each, is mounted on the roof of the Reilly School's newest annex building located at 3650 W. School Street on Chicago's northwest side. The electrical output of the system will be connected directly to the school's electric power system to support the electricity demand of the school. If at any time the solar electric system produces more electricity than is being used by the school, the electricity will flow out onto the ComEd grid and be utilized by the neighbors of the school. The total output of the system will be equivalent to that used by two to three average Chicago homes.

"Because of our relationship with Spire Solar Chicago, we'll be able to increase electric reliability at a variety of public facilities while creating jobs producing renewable energy," said William Abolt, Chicago Environment Commissioner. Spire Solar Chicago's new manufacturing plant is a formerly contaminated site on Chicago's west side that the City has cleaned up and now is redeveloping as a center for "green" industry.

The Reilly system, like any PV system, uses only sunlight as its fuel and consequently emits no climate change gases or other pollutants. Over its first five years of operation, the Reilly School system will offset approximately 120,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, when compared to conventional coal-based power production. This is the amount of CO2 that is emitted by driving an automobile 150,000 miles. The system is designed to have a 30-year life.

"ComEd is very pleased to have been a part of this important solar energy installation," said Mary O'Toole, Commonwealth Edison Environmental Services Manager. "Not only are we able to educate our children about these technologies, but we will gain additional experience to better position our company to offer clean energy solutions to our customers. This is the first of many systems we look forward to deploying over the coming years," O'Toole concluded.

In addition to providing clean energy to Reilly and its neighborhood, Reilly students will have a hands-on lesson in the science of energy production. Spire Solar Chicago is including an

interactive video kiosk that will enable the students to monitor the system's real-time performance from the lobby of the school. The monitor will show current weather conditions, the intensity of the solar energy striking the panels, and the total energy output of the system. The data will ultimately be available on the Internet for access and monitoring by other schools.

``This system is an excellent illustration of the many goals we can realize by deploying clean energy technologies," said Chicago Public Schools CEO Paul Vallas. ``With this type of system, we can power our kids' education with environmentally benign generating technologies while educating them on what their energy future could look like."

``Local #134 is proud to have donated the labor for the installation of this worthwhile environmental and educational project," said Michael Fitzgerald, Business Manager for the IBEW Local #134. ``Participation in these types of efforts provides our members with valuable experience working with a technology that we believe will be a significant business area for electrical contractors in the future."

``The diversity of the coalition that has resulted in the Reilly system is testament to the high level of interest in clean energy in the Chicago area," said Stephen J. Hogan, Vice President and General Manager of Spire Solar, parent of Spire Solar Chicago. ``It has been a privilege to partner with these quality public and private organizations to make this system a reality."

Certain matters discussed in this news release may be forward-looking statements subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the risk of dependence on government agencies and other third parties for funding contract research and services, as well as other factors described in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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